

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12596 01 OF 02 291954Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NSF-01
L-03 NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-07 COME-00 INT-05 CEQ-01
FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SS-15 TRSE-00 /130 W
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P R 291756Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6661
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12596

FROM USDEL

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: XV, TGEN, PL, UK
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: SUMMARY REPORT ON SPECIAL
CONSULTATIVE AND EXTENDED PREPARATORY MEETINGS

REF: (A) LONDON 10004; (B) LONDON 10570; (C) STATE
141665; (D) STATE 152477; (E) LONDON 11541

1. SUMMARY. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES
MET IN LONDON JULY 25-29 IN THEIR FIRST SPECIAL CONSUL-
TATIVE MEETING (SCM) AND IN A SECOND EXTENDED PREPARATORY
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PAGE 02 LONDON 12596 01 OF 02 291954Z

MEETING (EPM) FOR THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE, WHICH WERE HELD
IN TANDEM. THE SCM AGREED UPON RECOGNITION THAT POLAND
HAS ATTAINED CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND UPON GENERAL PRO-
CEDURES FOR HANDLING THIS QUESTION IN THE FUTURE. POLAND
WAS FORMALLY SEATED. THE EPM REVIEWED AGENDA ITEMS FOR
THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE, ACCORDING MAJOR EMPHASIS TO AND
MAKING PROGRESS ON ISSUE OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RE-

SOURCES BUT TOUCHING AS WELL ON MINERAL RESOURCES AND THE EXPERTS MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING CONVENED TO CONSIDER THE QUESTIONS OF POLAND'S CONSULTATIVE STATUS UNDER ARTICLE IX(2) OF ANTARCTIC TREATY AND GENERAL PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH QUESTION OF FUTURE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES. A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT POLAND MET THE ARTICLE IX(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS WAS EXPRESSED AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING. HOWEVER, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN DELEGATIONS (CHIEFLY ARGENTINA) VIEWED THE TWO ISSUES AS A "PACKAGE" SO FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF THE POLISH QUESTION WAS DEFERRED UNTIL A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON THE QUESTION OF GENERAL PROCEDURES U.S. DEL EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE AND REFERRED TO U.S. PROPOSAL AND BASIC U.S. POSITION THAT NOTHING IN PROCEDURES SHOULD MAKE RECOGNITION OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS MORE DIFFICULT THAN IS JUSTIFIED BY TREATY AND THAT PROCEDURES BE SIMPLE AND FLEXIBLE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR GENERAL U.S. POSITION (PARTICULARLY FRANCE, AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN).

3. INTENSIVE INFORMAL AND FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, CHIEFLY INVOLVING U.S., ARGENTINA, UK AND SOVIET DELS, FOLLOWED. U.S. DEL AGREED TO MEET CERTAIN ARGENTINE CONCERNS RELATING TO FORMALITY OF PROCEDURE. AND, IN TURN, ARGENTINE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LONDON 12596 01 OF 02 291954Z

DEL AGREED TO STATEMENT OF RIGHT CONTAINED IN ARTICLE IX(2).

4. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON (1) PROCEDURES AND (2) PAPER REFLECTING RECOGNITION OF AND WELCOME TO POLAND AS NEW CONSULTATIVE PARTY.

5. DURING EPM, CONSULTATIVE PARTY REPS GAVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ISSUE OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES, WITH UNANIMOUS VIEW EMERGING THAT IT IS URGENT TO PROVIDE FOR CONSERVATION OF SUCH RESOURCES. THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OVER HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, DERIVING FROM VARIATION IN LEVELS OF PREPARATION FOR THE EPM AS WELL AS IN SUBSTANTIVE APPROACH TO THE QUESTION AMONG CONSULTATIVE PARTIES, BUT THESE DIFFERENCES WERE NOT DWELT UPON.

6. LIVING RESOURCE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THREE WORKING PAPERS (U.S. INFORMAL LIST OF QUESTIONS TABLED AT MARCH MEETING; UK SUMMARY OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN RESPONSE TO THOSE QUESTIONS; U.S. PAPER ILLUSTRATING DRAFT ELEMENTS OF A CONSERVATION ARRANGEMENT). EPM PROCEEDINGS REFLECT-

ED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN SUPPORT FOR CONCLUSION OF CON-
SERVATION CONVENTION, WITH AUSTRALIA PUSHING HARD FOR
EARLY CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE SUCH CONVENTION. USSR AND
JAPAN BOTH ENDORSED IDEA OF CONVENTION. ARGENTINA REIT-
ERATED THAT IT COULD ONLY ENVISAGE AGREED MEASURES

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12596 02 OF 02 291817Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12596

DEVELOPED AT CONSULTATIVE MEETING. CHILE PREFERRED
AGREED MEASURES AS FIRST STEP BUT INDICATED CONVENTION
COULD FOLLOW AS NEXT STEP. AUSTRALIA INTENDS TO CIR-
CULATE DRAFT INSTRUMENT (PRESUMABLY DRAFT CONVENTION)
IN ADVANCE OF NINTH CONSULTATIVE.

7. EPM DECIDED THAT EXPERTS MEETING ON TECHNIQUES FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WOULD DELIVER ITS REPORT TO
NINTH CONSULTATIVE PLENARY MEETING SECOND WEDNESDAY OF
MEETINGS, SATISFYING WISH OF MANY DELEGATIONS THAT RE-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12596 02 OF 02 291817Z

PORT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN TIME FOR CAREFUL STUDY. THUS EXPERTS MEETING WILL LAST APPROXIMATELY SIX WORKING DAYS, STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 20 AFTER CONSULTATIVE MEETING ADOPTS GUIDELINES FOR MEETING. FRENCH DELEGATION STRESSED NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS BY DELEGATES TO NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF NON-TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MINERAL RESOURCE QUESTIONS, NOTING THAT REPORT OF 1976 PARIS SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING ON MINERAL RESOURCE QUESTIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

8. AT PROPOSAL OF U.S. DELEGATION, AN AGENDA ITEM ON DECLASSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING DOCUMENTS WAS ADDED TO AGENDA AND POLISH STATUS AGENDA ITEM, ACTION ON WHICH HAD BEEN COMPLETED BY THE SCM, WAS DELETED.

9. USSR REQUESTED THAT AN EXPERTS GROUP ON PROCEDURES TO IMPROVE DISSEMINATION OF METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION BE SET UP AT THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING. MOST DELEGATIONS WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC, EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS ONLY TO DISCUSS GENERAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING. QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE EXPERTISE ON DELEGATIONS TO THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING WAS LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIVE PARTIES AND EXACT CHARACTER OF A POSSIBLE METEOROLOGICAL EXPERTS GROUP WAS NOT RESOLVED.

10. AT UK SUGGESTION AN ITEM ON CONSERVATION MEASURES AND SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSIS) WAS ACCEPTED. PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE UMBRELLA FOR DISCUSSION OF SCAR/EAMREA REPORT AND TO REVIEW MANAGEMENT PLANS OF SSSIS.

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Message Attributes

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